[Answered Ap. 15, 1854]

P. H. M.

Oahu Hawaiian Isles. Jan. 1854

Dear Brethren

More than a year since I rec.d a kind & interesting letter from you; written I believe by Bro. Smith, & intended I suppose, though not so stated, for the Protestant mission here.

But as our mission was then being radically changed, if not dissolved it was so fully occupied that correspondence was neglected; & my time has been so occupied with various cares, that I have not hitherto found a convenient season to write you. —— I spoke of the changes of our relations to our former patrons.

The doings of the A. B. C. F. M. at Cincinnati will have informed you, of the extent of these changes. There are now 12 families formerly connected with the miss;n who support themselves, independent of the Board, and most of the others receive a large part of their support either from their people, or their own efforts And I hope before many years this people will be able to sustain all their own institutions. —

I agree with Dr Anderson they are fairly entitled to the name christian. In civilization however they are very far below the U. S. as any well informed person would naturally suppose. Perhaps they may be equal to some parts of Europe I think they would at least compare well with the slaves of the South if they had been emancipated & properly instructed 15 or 20 years. The point however, whence the Hawaiians were raised was, I doubt not, far, very far below the present state of the blacks. And I think some of the brightest examples, all things considered, that I ever knew, of christian character, were found here.

Still, the mass of the people are indolent, inefficient, & fond of pleasure; & the young princes, are men of lax morals, & I fear of corrupt principles. And as the nation is, from its feebleness, exposed to insult & outrage, from the French & others, I shall not be surprised, if ere long, they seek shelter under the wings of the *great eagle*, which, ~~whose~~ wings reach to the pacific & already almost touch us.

You may have noticed by the report of the Board, that we have organized an independent miss'y Soc. — The children of our mission, also, self moved, have formed a Soc. among themselves. That you may see what we are doing, I send you a report of each of these institutions. — The frequent use of the term *cousin*, which occurs frequently in the report of the childrens Soc. was the result of a remark of one of their no., in one of their earlier meetings; viz, that owing to the peculiar circumstances of their parents, being separated from their kindred, their children, supplied the place of *cousins*, to each other. It may not be improper to remark, that Asa G. Thurston × their first president, is a graduate of a N E.

× & son of the *oldest* man of our number.

college, but was, up to the formation of this Soc.,
far from God, & showed no sympathy for his servants
But before the close of the first year, he was
apparently converted; & now promises to make
a very useful man. I ought perhaps to say,
that only 10 of their no. are of age; & none of them
are rich, but their zeal in the cause of missns
enables them to find means to promote it; either
by their own efforts, or their self denial.

And it seems to me, if christians generally
could be induced to give on the same scale,
there would be no want of funds, to publish the
Gospel. —

Permit me now, to say a word on another topic, viz the commentaries of Dr. Adison
Alexander. The year past, I have been reading
his works on the Psalms & Isaiah. I scarcely
ever take up either, without being forcibly reminded of the terse, clear & forcible style of his
now sainted father. Although I own Scott's &
Henry's com. & some of Barnes', none of them
afford me such pleasure & profit, as I derive
from those of your justly & highly esteemed, teacher.

The Psalms, although precious indeed before,
seemed in great measure, to consist of disconnected
sentences; but now they appear to possess generally
a natural, & often a striking connection. And
many verses which appeared very obscure, now

appear perfectly plain; & many of them touching and beautiful. This is true also, of many passages in Isaiah. It seems to me the wisdom of the commentator is no less conspicuous, in his passing over many questions started by some writers with the remark, The decision of this question either way is of no exegetical importance whatever, than in the lucid & striking ~~importance~~ illustration of almost everything of practical importance.

Aided by his pen, I can safely say, of the Sacred Volume, "And still, new beauties do I see,

And still increasing light."

Long may his life & health be preserved, & his talents be occupied as hitherto, in the Master's cause.

~~My~~ My eldest son, is a mem. of the Micronesian mission; & I have 4 others pursuing an education for publick service, I trust. Three of them are ch.h. mem. — That missn & the one to the Marquesas, seem to have a favorable beginning; & will, I presume, prove a blessing to this people, who feel great interest in them. —

I rejoice in the prosperity of your Sem.; & in the efficient efforts, of the Presbyterian board, of missions in foreign lands; & if favored with another letter from you, will try to answer promptly.

As ever yours in the Gospel P. J. Gulick